



NOW from NORTH AMERICA



IN THIS ISSUE

- AMR Roundtable Discussion
- SOFI 2017 - Canadian Perspectives
- Pollinator Roundtable
- Agroforestry Roundtable
- Upcoming Events
- Tax Corner
- News from FAO Headquarters
- New Selected FAO Publications

Healthy animals, just like healthy people, do not need antimicrobials. 13 - 19 November is World Antibiotic Awareness Week.

“Antibiotics and other antimicrobials should be only used to cure diseases and alleviate unnecessary suffering. Only under strict circumstances, they could be used to prevent an imminent threat of infection.

Antimicrobial medicines used for growth promotion should be phased out immediately. We have to take our responsibility of using antimicrobials in a sustainable way.”

- José Graziano da Silva,
Director-General, FAO

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear reader,

The overwhelmingly positive response to our first newsletter last month has been enormously gratifying for FAO's Liaison Office for North America (FAOLOW). It has also motivated us to work even harder to share updates on the work of FAO North America with our colleagues and partners.

FAO North America is privileged to work with people and organizations across the United States and Canada who share the dream of achieving a world without poverty and hunger by 2030. This time of the year is the holiday season and in that spirit, we want to express our deepest appreciation to all stakeholders who partner with us to deliver upon the 2030 agenda.

This November FAO North America in partnership with Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) organized a high level event to mark the World Antibiotic Awareness Week which underlined the need to check the unregulated and ill-informed use of antimicrobials. FAO is uniquely positioned to contribute to international efforts to address antimicrobial resistance, having expertise in developing national capacities for surveillance, strengthening governance, raising awareness and promoting good practices.

Food insecurity and conflict have come into sharper focus globally in recent years and to deliberate on this issue from a Canadian perspective, FAO North America in partnership with the International Development Research Centre and Global Affairs Canada organized a roundtable discussion in Ottawa which highlighted the crucial role of women in meeting hunger and nutrition milestones, especially in the context of conflict and protracted crisis.

The often forgotten but extremely important role of pollinators was highlighted at a roundtable discussion co-hosted by FAO North America and Humanitas International. The event featured Matt Willey, an artist and founder of “The Good of the Hive”, who is on a mission to paint 50,000 honeybees on murals around the world to bring attention to the plight of honeybees and pollinators at large.

I hope this newsletter provides a useful and timely update on our activities and engagements in the United States and Canada. I also hope that it generates ideas for how FAO North America can further deepen its partnership with colleagues and stakeholders like you.

Sincerely,

Vimlendra Sharan,

Director, FAO Liaison Office for North America

NEWS FROM THE LIAISON OFFICE FOR NORTH AMERICA

FAO and CSIS gather experts in Washington, D.C. to discuss solutions for Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)



Vimlendra Sharan (FAO) and Kimberly Flowers, (CSIS) at the roundtable discussion on AMR.

14 November 2017, Washington, DC – FAO's Liaison Office for North America and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) co-hosted a roundtable discussion about the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and its impact on food, health and agricultural systems. Moderated by Kimberly Flowers, Director of the Global Food Security Project at CSIS, the event included top experts in food and agriculture representing the US and Canadian governments, private sector, academia and NGOs discussing challenges and solutions for tackling AMR.

"Antimicrobial resistance is a growing threat to human and animal health worldwide. It threatens food safety, food security and economic stability."
- Vimlendra Sharan

The roundtable emphasized the need for action to promote the responsible use of antimicrobials across all sectors; science-based policy to guide safe, sustainable and effective changes in antimicrobial use; and the potential for economic incentives to encourage behavior change to help reduce reliance on antimicrobials and to contain resistant pathogens.

Although antimicrobials are vital to defend people, animals and plants against infections, their misuse and overuse can lead to their failure, as microbes develop resistance to these life-saving treatments.

FAO is truly a One Health organization and continues to work closely with the World Health Organization (WHO), World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and other partners, in implementing the Global Action Plan to combat antimicrobial resistance in all sectors and to keep our most important medicines working for when we need them most.

Read more about the event [here](#) and more about FAO's work on AMR [here](#).

Canadian Perspectives on the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2017

27 November 2017, Ottawa - FAO North America in collaboration with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and Global Affairs Canada organized a roundtable discussion on the key findings and messages from SOFI 2017 and to present Canadian perspectives on them. The event was organized at IDRC HQ in Ottawa, Canada. Jean Lebel, President of IDRC, gave the opening remarks.

Celina Caesar-Chavannes, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development, who also served as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister until January 2017, gave the keynote speech in which she underlined the importance of delivering on SDG 2 to ensure that no one, especially the women and children, is left behind.

The other speakers at the event were Amrane Boumghar, Deputy Director General, Food Security from Global Affairs Canada who addressed the Feminist International Assistance Policy launched in June by the Government of Canada, focusing on women and food systems; Adrian Di Giovanni, Senior Program Officer from IDRC who spoke on the impact of food security in conflict with special reference to issues of land access; and Pierre Kadet, Senior Manager, Food Security and Resilience to Climate Change at CARE Canada who discussed the links between conflict and food security with specific reference to South Sudan and the Canadian response through the FEED program.

The event started with the Director of FAO North America presenting the key findings from SOFI 2017 and delivering the key messages emanating from this flagship publication. The Director emphasized the importance of agriculture and women's empowerment in effective peacebuilding processes.



From left to right: Jean Lebel (IDRC), Celina Caesar-Chavannes (Parliamentary Secretary) and Vimlendra Sharan (FAO).

NEWS FROM THE LIAISON OFFICE FOR NORTH AMERICA

FAO North America participates at the Canadian Embassy to honor International Trade Coalition 2017

15 November 2017, Washington, DC - On the occasion of the International Grain Trade Coalition 2017 General Assembly, the Embassy of Canada in Washington, D.C. in partnership with the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) hosted a seminar on global policy issues impacting the international grain trade. Grain industry experts from around the world shared perspectives and recommendations on how to improve the trade and investment environment tied to the global movement of grains, oilseeds, and other agri-bulks. Marvin Hildebrand, Economic Minister at the Embassy of Canada gave the opening remarks and highlighted the importance of engagements across borders to create a global regulatory and commercial environment that is supportive of trade.

The event also featured participation from Tyler Bjornson of the Canada Grains Council, embassy officials, international organizations, U.S. government representatives and private sector representatives. FAO was represented by Edona Dervisholli, Trade Analyst at FAO North America.

The seminar emphasized the need to optimize the work of key global organizations like the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to facilitate grain trade for food security.



Marvin Hildebrand (Economic Minister, Embassy of Canada) and Katy Lee (International Grain Trade Coalition).

Roundtable emphasizes the critical role of pollinators

3 November 2017-Washington, DC - FAO North America co-hosted a roundtable discussion with Humanitas Global on *Scaling Up Pollinator Action for Food, Environmental and Health Resilience*. The event featured the work of Matt Willey, a muralist and founder of [The Good of the Hive](#). Through this initiative, Mr. Willey is calling attention to the plight of honeybees and pollinators at large by painting 50,000 honeybees on murals around the world. While in Washington, D.C., Mr. Willey painted a mural at a local public elementary school while also participating in a range of youth education and engagement activities in collaboration with Pollinator Partnership, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the US Forest Service. At the roundtable discussion, Mr. Willey highlighted how his project is helping to generate increased awareness of and interest in the critical role honeybees and other pollinators play in agriculture and our lives.

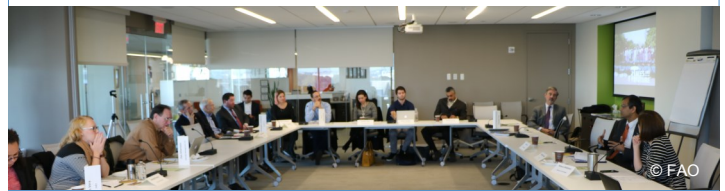
“Enhancing and protecting pollinator services is critically important for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and to help smallholder farmers adapt to the effects of climate change”

- Thomas Pesek,
Senior Liaison Officer

There was consensus among participants that art serves as an extremely compelling and innovative medium of communicating the story of pollinators and its impact on global food security and sustainable landscapes. FAO North America was represented at the event by its Director, Vimlendra Sharan and Senior Liaison Officer Tom Pesek. Nabeeha Kazi, President of Humanitas Global moderated the discussion which featured speakers from US Department of Agriculture (USDA), the German Embassy, the Pollinator Partnership and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

Read more on FAO's Global Action on Pollination Services for Sustainable Agriculture [here](#).

FAO North America co-hosts roundtable discussion on agroforestry



Participants at the roundtable discussion on agroforestry.

16 November 2017, Washington, DC - FAO North America, Trees for the Future and the Alliance to End Hunger co-hosted a roundtable discussion on The Role of Agroforestry in the March to Zero Hunger. The discussion brought together a diverse array of stakeholders ranging from academic, policy, and on-the-ground practitioners to consider and examine what needs to happen to more efficiently utilize agroforestry around the world.

Vimlendra Sharan, Director of FAO North America, provided an overview of FAO's work in agroforestry, especially its contribution to all dimensions of food security- availability, access, utilization and stability and emphasized the need for more robust data and evidence to garner a larger support base amongst policy makers globally. He further emphasized the economic, social and environmental benefits of agroforestry, including its role in building health and nutrition, improving soil fertility and promoting water conservation, amongst other benefits.

John Leary, Executive Director of Trees for the Future, explained the concept of “forest gardens,” and how they are developed in the field. Agroforestry is about integrating different crops on different levels: “When you think vertically, you can produce so much more than when you think horizontally”, he said. Mr. Leary also highlighted that forest gardens could help to provide a stable income year-round while also building nutritional diversity for families.

FAO NORTH AMERICA EVENTS & TAX CORNER

EVENTS IN DECEMBER

What?	When?	Where?
Nutrition-sensitive Landscapes: Strategies to strengthen resilience	Friday, 1 December 2017 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM	FAO Liaison Office for North America, 2121 K Street Suite 800B, NW, Washington, D.C. 20037
The role of trade in achieving the 2030 agenda for sustainable development	Wednesday, 6 December 2017 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM	FAO Liaison Office for North America, 2121 K Street Suite 800B, NW, Washington, D.C. 20037
Africa Sustainable Livestock 2050 USAID-FAO-P&R-PREDICT II Meeting (invitation only)	Monday, 11 December 2017 9:00 AM—4:45PM (by invitation only)	FAO Liaison Office for North America, 2121 K Street Suite 800B, NW, Washington, D.C. 20037
Private Sector Solutions to Food Loss and Waste	Wednesday, 20 December 2017 9:00 - 10:30 AM	FAO Liaison Office for North America, 2121 K Street Suite 800B, NW, Washington, D.C. 20037

TAX CORNER

This section provides important updates from the tax unit located at the FAO Liaison Office for North America, which processes tax reimbursement requests by FAO, World Food Programme (WFP), and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) staff members.

Did you know that FAO North America houses a TAX Unit?

The United States does not exempt UN earnings from income tax for U.S. citizens and permanent residents. In the interest of equity, the UN General Assembly established a system (Tax Equalization Fund) to reimburse income taxes to those staff members who are required to pay income taxes in respect of salaries or other emoluments they receive from the United Nations.

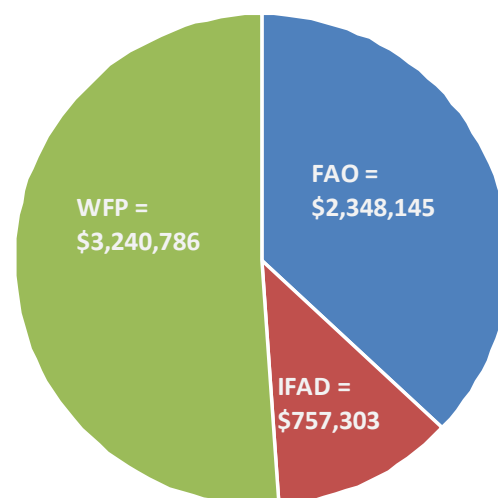
The FAO North America Tax Unit processed **672 requests by FAO/WFP/IFAD staff** members (tax reimbursements and tax advances) for the 2016 Calendar Year – totaling over **\$6.3 million in payouts**. The Tax Unit manages this workload with one full time Finance/Tax Assistant, a Tax Assistant (at 40% time), and a Finance Assistant at half time.

Important upcoming dates:

- 11 December 2017 - End-of-Year Budget processes begin
- 15 January 2018 - 4th Quarter Estimate payments due to the IRS
- 28 February 2018 - FAO Administrative Circular approval (estimate date). Tax Unit begins processing 2017 tax reimbursements.

Please email the Tax Unit with questions: low-ustax-settlement@fao.org

Overall View of CY2016 Tax Payouts per Organization



NEWS FROM FAO HEADQUARTERS

FAO Director-General urges climate change mitigation and adaptation throughout food systems at COP 23

6-14 November 2017, Bonn - FAO participated in the 23rd Session of the Conference of Parties (COP23), hosted by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat.

Speaking at the event, FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva remarked that "climate change puts millions of people in a vicious cycle of food insecurity, malnutrition and poverty. Yet, we must confront the harsh reality: we are not doing enough to deal with this immense threat." He stressed that Least Developed Countries and [Small Island Developing States](#) were "particularly vulnerable" to climate change. Noting that we should "not be discouraged by the challenges ahead," the Director-General stressed that achieving Zero Hunger by 2030 is still possible. However, much more needs to be done to reduce emissions and to simultaneously improve yields and build resilience. This would mean adopting approaches such as agroecology and sustainable, climate-smart intensification, among others. He noted in particular, that while livestock emits more greenhouse gas than other food sources, "low carbon livestock is possible".



FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva presenting a new FAO publication on Livestock solutions for climate change at COP23 in Bonn.

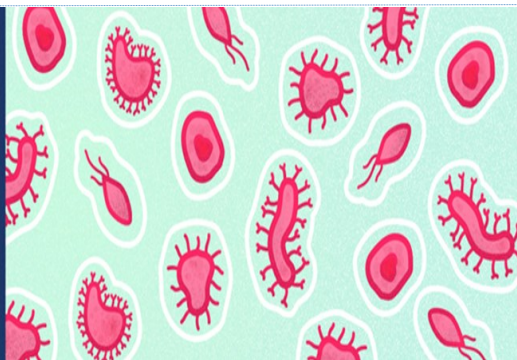
FAO's work in climate change includes supporting countries in sustainably improving their agricultural sectors; in adapting and building resilience, and in mitigating global warming through agriculture. It also assists countries monitor their Nationally Determined Contributions in terms of climate change and delivers the technical and financial support needed to turn these commitments into reality.

At COP23, FAO launched a [new report Tracking Adaptation in Agricultural Sectors](#) that provides a framework and methodology to support to track climate change adaptation measures in the agricultural sectors. Find out more about FAO's work on climate change [here](#) and FAO's activities during COP 23 [here](#).

World Antibiotic Awareness Week

13-19 November 2017

#AMR



World Antibiotic Awareness Week emphasizes that antimicrobial resistance is a global threat

14-17 November 2017, Rome, Italy - FAO Headquarters celebrated the World Antibiotic Awareness Week, urging that Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is a growing threat to lives and livelihoods. Antimicrobial drugs play a critical role in the treatment of diseases, their use is essential to protect both human and animal health. However, antimicrobials are often misused for treatment and prevention of diseases in livestock sector, aquaculture, as well as crop production. These actions are often associated with the potential risk of emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistant micro-organisms.

FAO has launched a [special video series](#) encouraging consumers, decision makers, farmers and food producers, health professionals and innovators to work together to tackle AMR. Read more on FAO's work on AMR [here](#).

Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) hosts 49th session in Chicago

13-17 November, Chicago - FAO and WHO, as hosting organizations of the Codex convened an international meeting to discuss pressing Codex issues and opportunities with key stakeholders.

The 49th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) tackled issues of Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA), General Principles of Food Hygiene, and food safety issues in Fish and Fishery Products.

The Codex Alimentarius, or "Food Code" is a collection of standards, guidelines and codes of practice to protect consumer health and promote fair practices in food trade. 188 Codex members negotiate science based recommendations in all areas related to food safety and quality.

Read more on the 49th Session [here](#) and on Codex Alimentarius [here](#).

SELECTED NEW FAO PUBLICATIONS

Regional Overviews of Food Security and Nutrition 2017

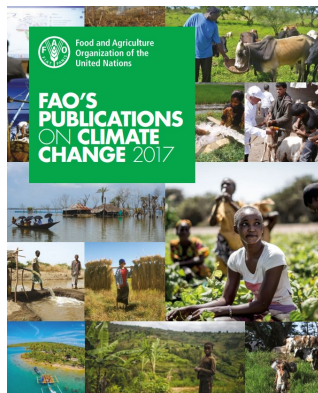
After launching the global flagship report **The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2017**, FAO is releasing five Regional Overviews of Food Security and Nutrition, providing more detailed analysis of progress and setbacks in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Near East and North Africa.

- [Africa Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition](#)
- [Latin America and the Caribbean](#)
- [Asia and the Pacific](#)
- [Europe and Central Asia](#)

The overview of the Near East and North Africa is forthcoming in December.



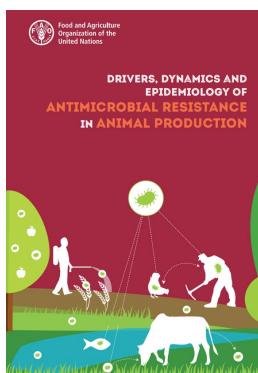
FAO's Publications on Climate Change



A selection of FAO publications on climate change and food security in the agricultural sectors – the latest on climate-smart agriculture, food waste reduction, low emission development strategies and much more. Browse FAO's publications on Climate Change [here](#).

During the UN Climate Change Conference COP 23, FAO also made this entire selection of the latest publications on climate change and food security available through FAOnow. FAOnow is a free mobile application for quick and easy access to latest news, events and success stories from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The application downloads latest information to your device so you can read stories offline, save them as favorites for quick reference and access the latest knowledge on topics related to food security and agriculture. Download FAOnow [here](#).

Antimicrobial Resistance



Drivers, dynamics and epidemiology of antimicrobial resistance in animal production

It is now accepted that increased antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in bacteria affecting humans and animals is primarily influenced by an increase in usage of antimicrobials for a variety of purposes, including therapeutic and non-therapeutic uses in animal production. Read more [here](#).



The FAO action plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2016-2020

This Action Plan supports the WHO-led Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance in highlighting the necessity of adopting a "One Health" approach. Read more [here](#).

ACCESS FAO PUBLICATIONS [HERE](#).

FAO IN THE USA & CANADA

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has deep roots in North America. The Organization was conceived of during a meeting in Hot Springs, Virginia, United States in 1943 and its first headquarters was located in Washington, DC. In 1945, FAO was formally established as a specialized agency by the newly created United Nations during its very first session, which was held in Quebec City, Canada. FAO's headquarters was permanently moved to Rome, Italy in 1951. The FAO Liaison Office for North America based in Washington, DC continues to strengthen the Organization's partnership with Canada and the United States.

FAO shares with Canada and the United States a vision of how to achieve a world without hunger and poverty. Both member states have been working closely with FAO since its inception more than 70 years ago. Canada and the United States both play critically important leadership roles within FAO and they are also among the Organization's largest financial supporters.

FAO's Liaison Office for North America works to support and implement FAO policies and programs through strategic partnerships with governments and other key stakeholders based in Canada and the United States, including civil society organizations, multilateral institutions, research centers and think tanks, the private sector, philanthropic foundations and the media.



[Read more](#) about the United States and FAO.



[Read more](#) about Canada and FAO.

CONTACT US

FAO Liaison Office for North America

2121 K Street, NW.
Suite 800B.
Washington, D.C.
20037 USA

+1 (202) 653-2400
Falow@fao.org

www.fao.org/north-america

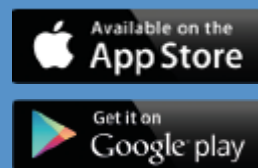
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